

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the Specification as follows:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 4 with the following amended paragraph:

This application is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent ~~Application 10/445,673~~
No. 7,021,184, titled SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR PROVIDING SHEETS TO AN
INSERTER SYSTEM USING A ROTARY CUTTER, ~~filed May 27, 2003~~ which issued
April 4, 2006.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 5 with the following amended paragraph:

The control system for the inserter senses markings on the individual pages to determine what pages are to be collated together in the accumulator module **40**. In a typical inserter application, mail pieces may include varying numbers of pages to be accumulated. For example, the phone bill for a person who lives by himself may be much shorter than ~~the~~ another phone bill representing calls made by a large family. It is this variation in the number of pages to be accumulated that makes the output of the accumulator **40** asynchronous, that is, not necessarily occurring at regular time intervals.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 9, line 13 with the following amended paragraph:

Sensors **12** and **13** scan a mark or code printed on the web and provide inputs to a controller **14**. The mark or code identify which mail piece that particular portion of web belongs to, and provides instructions for processing and assembling the mail pieces. In addition to using the scanned information for providing assembling instructions, the scanning process is useful for tracking the documents' progress through the mail piece assembly process. Once the location of a document is known based on a sensor reading, the document's position may be tracked throughout the system by monitoring the displacement of the transport system. In particular, encoders may be incorporated in the transport systems to give a reliable measurement of displacements that have occurred since a document was at a certain location.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 11, line 17 with the following amended paragraph:

In accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present invention, all of the transport mechanisms between the rotary cutter **21** and high speed separation nip **34** operate at the same speeds. Collectively, the transport mechanisms may be referred to herein as the "right angle turn transport **37**," and include rollers **23**, **24**, **36**, and turn bars **32** and **33**. Preferably the components of the right angle turn transport are electronically or mechanically geared to one another so that speeds are always consistent throughout.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 12, line 22 with the following amended paragraph:

Downstream of nip **34**, a sensor **35** scans a code on the sheets and provides an input to the controller **14**. Once again, this scanned code links the particular sheet to a set of instructions for assembling the mail pieces. Sensor **35** further is used to confirm that the sheets detected by sensors **12** and **13** have arrived as expected. Of particular interest at this stage of the production process is the number of sheets belonging to a particular mail piece, and which sheets go together to form the same mail piece. Based on mail piece information determined from the sensors, flipper gate **41** directs sheets belonging to the same mail piece to one of two accumulator bins **42** and **43** of accumulator **40**.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 13, line 12 with the following amended paragraph:

While one accumulator bin (**42** or **43**) is receiving documents to be stacked into an accumulation, the other bin transfers its completed stack to the next stage for processing. Downstream of the accumulator **40**, collations of sheets are returned to a single paper path. In a typical embodiment, the next processing station downstream of the accumulator **40** will be a folder **50** configured to fold the collation ~~to a~~ as required by the control system.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 14, line 9 with the following amended paragraph:

Accordingly, it is an objective of a preferred embodiment of the present invention to take into account the number of sheets in the mail piece being delivered to the accumulator **40**. As discussed above, the number of sheets in a mail piece entering the accumulator **40** may be determined based on the code on the sheets scanned by sensors **12**, **13** and **35**. In response to the number sheets in the collation arriving at the high speed separation nip **34**, the speeds of the rotary cutter **21** feed and the right ~~angel~~ angle turn transport mechanisms are adjusted to ensure that only one parking space will be needed to account for the additional sheets generated during rotary cutter **21** deceleration.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 14, line 18 with the following amended paragraph:

Accordingly, referring to Fig. 3, if sheet **1** were known to be a single sheet collation, then the speed of the rotary cutter **21** and the right angle turn transports would be adjusted to a low velocity. The low velocity should be such that, if required to stop, the rotary cutter **21** would ~~not~~ produce no more sheets than would result in more than one sheet reaching the high speed separation roller **34**. If the mail piece prior to sheet **1** had included more than one sheet, then this would require a decrease in speed of the rotary cutter **21** and the right angle turn transports. The shingling arrangement downstream of the rotary cutter **21** allows that more than one sheet may be cut without necessarily causing more than one sheet to arrive at the nip **34**.